



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Telecommunications Coordinators

FROM: Frank Cavallaro, Manager *F.C.*

DATE: April 8, 2002

SUBJECT: Rates for Conference Calling

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As you know, CMS has established a contract with SBC/Ameritech for "Meet Me" conference calling services. This contract allows agencies to take advantage of extremely competitive conference calling rates. It is CMS policy that agencies should utilize the "Meet Me" service.

However, some agencies continue to use conference-calling services from other carriers at much higher rates. For example, the AT&T "700" conference calling service is almost 800% higher per minute than the Ameritech rate. To date, CMS has rebilled these non-Ameritech conference calls to agencies as a direct pass-through charge. Beginning July 1, 2002, CMS will bill these calls to agencies at 120% of the vendor per call charge. This increase is necessary to recover the extremely high taxes and fees placed on these calls, which are not currently passed on to the agencies.

Agencies are encouraged to utilize the SBC/Ameritech "Meet Me" service to avoid these extra charges, and to help maintain cost-effective telecommunications services, particularly in this time of tight budgets.

Questions on how to utilize the Ameritech "Meet Me" service can be directed to Sarah Zervas, CMS Telecommunications Division, at (217) 524-2159.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.